



meter. The present invention, when connected to the meter being tested and turned on, provides a momentary load sufficient to cause the disc of the meter being tested to turn if the meter is operable. The present invention is meant to be used by utility workers in the field to test a meter which has a disc that is not rotating upon first examination. To ascertain that the meter actually is operational, the field worker connects the present invention to the terminals of the meter (see Application, page 2, lines 30-35 and page 5, lines 9-11) and flips a switch on the present invention causing the application of a momentary load on the meter. If the meter is operational, the load applied will cause the disc to rotate. If the meter is not operational, the load has no effect on the disc. To be certain that a load is applied by the present invention, a light on the present invention glows when the circuit is completed or closed. An electric utility field worker with ordinary skill in the art would easily understand the method of use of the present invention after reading the disclosure of the application.

Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Phillips et al. The Phillips et al. device makes calculations for accuracy of the tested meter. In Phillips, et al., an articulated light generating and receiving means is aligned with the revolving disc of the meter so that light passes through an aperture in the disc to the receiving means and then signals a verifying apparatus to give an indication of the watt hour reading of the meter being tested. In contrast, the light of the present invention is merely an indicator that the circuit of the present invention is closed. The light of the present invention does not pass through any component of the meter.

Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Park. The Park device is intended to be used by a householder to conduct a variety of simple diagnostic tests on electrical apparatus within and around a home and automobile. A householder would not be able to test the electric meter at his home with the Park device. A householder would be unable to test the meter with any device in the manner of the present invention because a householder is not allowed to tamper with the meter housing in order to make available the terminals of the meter. Only a utility field worker may use the present invention because only a utility company employee has authority to break the seal on the meter in order to access the terminals of the meter.

The Park device has various terminals which exit the housing of that device in the form of sockets into which may be placed test leads (see Park, Col. 2, lines 35-40). In contrast, the present invention has only two leads which must be placed on the terminals of the meter to be tested. Additionally, Park claims in its first claim "at least a first, second and third measuring terminal pairs;" whereas the present invention claims a "circuit comprising at least a pair of connection leads..." The Park device claims multiple terminal pairs in order to be functional, while the present invention needs only a pair of connection leads in order to function.

The Park device is intended as a multi-purpose tool for electronics enthusiasts to perform simple tests on various types of electrical components or units (see Park, Col. 1, lines 11-27). The Park device may be used to determine the presence of low DC voltage, AC voltage, and lower and higher resistance typically encountered in a household and automotive environment (see Park, Col. 2, lines 1-12).



The Park device has no leads and only a plurality of sockets into which various leads may be received. Because the Park device has no leads, it could not be used to test a meter in the manner of the present invention even if access to the terminals of the meter was possible. Therefore, the Park device is not relevant to the present invention.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the invention defined by each of the claims in the application is patentable under § 103. Accordingly, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the claims as now presented are earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: Feb 26, 2001

Joan R. Owen  
Reg. No.: 34,891  
301 Wateree Avenue  
Columbia, S.C. 29205

803-254-1555

RECEIVED  
MAR - 5 2001  
TC 2800 MAIL ROOM